



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

his countrymen are now most solemnly and earnestly called upon to assist, by the purchase of the "Narrative of his Confinement and Exile." A work, the details of which will be read by Irishmen, in other and happier days, with mingled feelings of pity for the venerable sufferer, and horror of his merciless oppressors.

And here, Sir, perhaps it may not appear irrelevant to point your attention to an awful fact, now clearly established, by the late conduct of the Synod of Ulster to the Rev. Dr. Dickson. But twenty years back, and his honest patriotic acts would probably have been greeted with their applause and sanction!—Mark the change; *observe the talismanic influence that a Royal Veto, and a Royal Pension, will exert on the minds and dispositions even of divines. When the Presbyterian Clergymen of Ireland were appointed and supported by their own body exclusively, while they were as yet pure from court interference and contact, what a respectable, what a venerable association might one have contemplated, an assembly from which Resolutions and sentiments could never have emanated, that would go to the destruction of an highly gifted "brother in orders," whose only crime was that of preaching union amongst Irishmen, and advocating the sacred principles of universal unqualified toleration to mankind.*

This striking and remarkable alteration in the opinions of the Synod of Ulster, speaks trumpet-tongued to the Irish people, more especially at the present crisis. It affords them a salutary lesson, that cannot, that must not be lost to them. Welcome again the most iniquitous statutes of the iniquitous penal code, rather than that the Irish Catholic Hierarchy and Priesthood should shake hands with pollution, by receiving any recompence for their holy labours from a British court or minister: no, no! it must not be, they shall not be subjected even to the possibility of such a degradation. The Catholic Laity of Ireland will form the interposing shield between our humble, pious, virtuous pastors, and the temptations that may be held out to them by the Arch-Priests of Corruption. No Castlereagh, no Pitt, shall ever have it in their power to divide into separate classes the Catholic clergy of our unfortunate Island. Dr. Black, the Presbyterian Primate, may continue to denounce virtues he cannot imitate, the modest Dickson, may sink under his anathemas, but he may rest assured, that the Parricide who installed him high dignitary, shall never be recognized as Pope by an Irish Catholic.

In soliciting your exertions in favour

BELFAST MAG. NO. LIII.

of Dr. Dickson, by forwarding amongst your friends the sale of his "Narrative," we beg to assure you, that in the second edition, all the typographical and other errors of the first, are carefully corrected.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE AGGREGATE CATHOLIC MEETING, HELD IN DUBLIN, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15th, 1812.

The Earl of Fingall in the Chair.

Resolved, That an address be prepared, and presented to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, praying his interposition on behalf of the faithful and long-suffering people of Ireland, professing the Roman Catholic religion.

Resolved, That the preparation, presentation, and management of such address be committed to the General Board of the Catholics of Ireland.

Resolved, That the individuals entrusted with the management of our address and petition, composing the General Board of the Catholics of Ireland, be requested to prepare and present an address to the Hon. Christopher Hely Hutchinson, expressive of the unbounded gratitude of the Catholics of Ireland, for his unremitting patriotism, splendid talents, and incorruptible integrity, and of our deep regret, that the Irish people are at present deprived of his eminent services in Parliament; a deprivation which we rank amongst the most severe of calamities to Ireland.

Resolved, That the most cordial gratitude of the Catholics is due, and is hereby given to our friends and advocates, the liberal and enlightened Protestants of Ireland, composing so decided a majority of our brethren of the Protestant religion, amongst whom we are proud to recognize all that is distinguished by rank, by talent, by fortune, and by independence of mind.

Resolved, That the Earl of Donoughmore be requested to present the petition of the Catholics of Ireland to the House of Lords.

Resolved that the Right Hon. Henry Grattan be requested to present our petition to the House of Commons.

Resolved, That we have seen with indignation, certain resolutions, lately published by some members of Grand Juries, and some individuals in different counties, containing insinuations and charges against the Catholics of Ireland, accusing them of disaffection; of entertaining disguised and secret views, and of an intention to obtain a Catholic ascendancy.

2 q q

Resolved, That the Catholics of Ireland indignantly disclaim all secret and disguised views, as equally inconsistent with the open candour and manliness of the Irish character, as they are with the uniform publicity of all our proceedings.

Resolved, That we owe it as a duty to ourselves, our country, and the world, to proclaim those insinuations and charges to be as unfounded as they are calumnious, as untrue as they are foul, and as false as they are malignant.

Resolved, That the Catholics of Ireland neither seek nor desire any religious ascendancy whatsoever: all they demand is an equal eligibility to civil and military employments with persons of other persuasions.

Resolved, That the fidelity of the Catholics is evinced by the treasure they contribute, and the blood they shed in the defence of the throne and the constitution, and which treasure and blood they have persevered in contributing and shedding,

in the midst of privations, penalties, and even of calumnies.

Resolved, That Robert Hearty, Esq., late High Sheriff of the city of Dublin, deserves the thanks of the people of Ireland, for the pure and unimpeachable integrity, and constitutional impartiality, with which in *bad times* he fulfilled the *first and most important duties* of his office.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting are hereby given to the Protestants, who have honoured us with their presence this day; and particularly to the two distinguished individuals who have so ably pleaded the cause of civil and religious freedom, Counsellors Walsh and Finlay.

The Earl of Fingall having left the chair, and Randal Mac Donnell, Esq. being called thereto,

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting are justly due, and hereby returned to the Earl of Fingall, as our chair-man this day, and for his conduct on other occasions in pursuit of our emancipation.

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

ON the 30th November, the Prince Regent opened the new Parliament, in a speech, important in its communications, and ominous in its omissions. His Royal Highness, on this occasion, wore a full dress of General's uniform, with a large military hat, surmounted by a high plume of fine feathers. In our ignorance, we should have thought that nothing was more unsuitable in the discharge of this most solemn, we had almost said, sacred official duty, performed for the first time by a chief magistrate, than a *military* costume; and we question whether Henry V., the conqueror of France, met his first Parliament in a habit so repugnant to the forms, and to the essence of the British Constitution. This introduction of military dress into the temple of the laws, is but in *degree* less offensive to those notions of order and morality that

should always preside in the supreme offices of civil life, than the deposit of blood-stained banners in his temple whose attribute is Love, thus presenting in a Christian cathedral, the offerings suited to Moloch's shrine, at the altar of the Most Merciful.

But in a contest that is carried on with those called *natural* enemies, and which has now continued for nineteen years, it has perhaps been concluded, that war abroad, and all the pomp and parade of war at home, even in the high intercourses of social life, is really become an integral and indivisible part of the constitution itself; the long habit growing into a second nature, and the *personal* passion becoming the state principle. Yet whatever the actuating principle of other governments may be, let it never be forgotten, that the true principle of our public policy is peace; and while all eyes, and all